

May 6, 1999
2108 Smiley Lane
Columbia, MO 65202

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

5616 '99 MAY 19 P1:19

Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food"

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently been made aware that the FDA is proposing to modify the requirements for labeling irradiated food with the result that consumers will not be able to tell whether or not a product they are buying has been irradiated. I am concerned that this relatively new process, whose long-term health effects on humans have not been tested, may be used on food products without sufficient labeling to allow consumers to make their own choices.

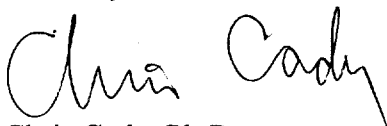
Radiation can change the texture, taste, nutritional value, and chemical composition of foods. Of greatest concern to me is this last effect: radiation can create from the food substrate a heretofore unseen class of unique radiolytic chemicals, many of which have never been tested for their possible health effects on humans. As an environmental scientist, it appears to me that, although FDA has apparently found no strong evidence that the process is unsafe during the few short years of testing, its long term effects are not known. It would be rash to proceed down this path without labeling requirements.

Many consumers, including myself, would at least like to know that foods have been treated with radiation before we decide whether to consume them. I you to heed the public concern over this issue and retain the labeling requirements.

Any foods, or foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

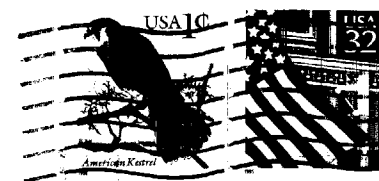
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Cady, Ph.D.
Environmental Chemist

J.C.Cady
2108 Smiley Lane
Columbia, MO 65202



Food + Drug Administration
Dockets Mgt. Branch HFA-305
5630 Fishers Lane Rm 1061
Rockville MD 20852

20837/0001

